

Message Text

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20

ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

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DRAFTED BY EA/PRCM:JSROY/LEKENNEDY:CED

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

INFO USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 063059

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJECT: CHINESE INTERNAL POLITICS - T HE FORGING OF
THE KEY LINK

REF: HONG KONG 2781

WE NOTE THAT THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION AS
TO WHEN THE INJUNCTION TO "TAKE THE THREE DIRECTIVES AS
THE KEY LINK" WAS FIRST PUBLICLY SURFACED. WHILE REFTEL
REPORTS FEI I-MIN'S CLAIM THAT THE PHRASE WAS FIRST
PUBLICLY MENTIONED IN AN OCTOBER 15 "PEOPLE'S DAILY"
ARTICLE, WE HAVE NOTED A PUBLIC REFERENCE AS EARLY AS
SEPTEMBER 26 IN A CHANGSHA HUNAN BROADCAST WITH A
"LEARN FROM TACHAI" THEME (FBIS DAILY REPORT OF SEPT. 29)
AND ANOTHER FROM AN OCTOBER 8 SINING TSINGHAI BROADCAST
(FBIS DAILY REPORT OF OCTOBER 21) WITH SCATTERED REFER-
ENCES CONTINUING THROUGH THE END OF NOVEMBER. ABOVE TIMING
SUGGESTS THAT THE PHRASE MAY HAVE BEEN USED IN TENG'S
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UNPUBLISHED SPEECH OF SEPT. 15 AT TACHAI, WHICH MAY SUBSE-

QUENTLY HAVE BEEN CIRCULATED TO PROVINCIAL CADRE WHO BLOAN
TO USE THE THEME SELECTIVELY. IF THE PHRASE DID APPEAR IN

TENG'S TACHAI SPEECH, WE CAN ONLY SPECULATE AS TO WHETHER
THE FAILURE TO PUBLISH THE SPEECH WAS THE RESULT OF DIS-
AGREEMENT WITHIN THE POLITBURO AT THE TIME OVER TREATING
THE THREE DIRECTIVES AS THE KEY LINK OR WHETHER OTHER
ASPECTS OF THE SPEECH MADE IT UNSUITABLE FOR PUBLICATION.
IF DEBATE OVER THIS PHRASE HAD ALREADY ARISEN EARLIER LAST
SUMMER (E.G. THE CLAIM IN THE FEBRUARY 25 ARTICLE BY THE
HSIAOCHINCHUANG BRIGADE THAT A CADRE HEARD THE PHRASE IN
PEKING IN JULY) THE FACT THAT THE PHRASE CROPPED UP BOTH
IN THE PROVINCES AND THE CENTRAL MEDIA FOR NEARLY TWO
MONTHS MAY BE INDICATIVE OF THE BALANCE OF FORCES AT THE
CENTER DURING THIS PERIOD.
KISSINGER

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